

Higgs Beach Working Group Meeting / Minutes
4/3/09 Harvey Gov't Center 9:30 am – 11:00 am)

Present: Commissioners Heather Carruthers and Teri Johnston, Christie Martin, Father Steve Braddock, Fran Gonzon, Hank Dean, Janice Nicowski, Maggie Gutierrez, Michael Behmke, Dent Pierce, Rev. Joe McMurray, Richard Hatch, Sean Kinney, Sloan Bashinsky, Suanne Kitchar, Sue Sullivan, Norma Jean Sawyer, Emil Imbro, John Wilkins, Rose Chan, Annette Liggett, John Jurowski, Roger McVeigh, George Fernandez, Kip Colligan, Tiffany Hendry, John Andola, Patrice Sanders, Dan McMahon, Greg Veliz, Rosi Ware, Eric Holowacz, Carol Schreck (Aide to Commissioner Carruthers)

I. Agenda approved

II. 2/26/09 minutes approved

3/21/09 minutes approved with the following addition:

“It was agreed by all present that the beach is open to everyone except lawbreakers. It was further resolved by all present that there should be no inconsistent or selective enforcement of the rules, and that no single group or individuals should be targeted.”

III. Update on Short Term action items

- a. Introductions
- b. Sheriff's Deputy (no formal report however, deputy presence has been beneficial.)
Hours to be reduced in May with weekend and holiday coverage in the summer.
IMPROVEMENT: Consider adding timed lockers for beach goers and homeless
- c. Bike racks scheduled to be placed next week, provided by City of Key West
- d. Recycling: Single stream recycling / working with Boy Scouts to make bins
- e. Lighting: 90% done for pavilions & huts
Consideration to be given to solar generated lighting and effects of all lighting on turtle nesting
- f. Bathroom renovation: plans complete for window installation – going for permit
- g. Pavilion / Hut refurbishing: work in progress
- h. Website: The county website will be the official website until further development.
www.friendsofhiggsbeach.com will auto forward to the county page:
http://monroecofl.virtualltownhall.net/Pages/MonroeCoFL_Facilities/higgsbeach
- i. Sheriff's deputy will not be needing a booth
- j. County Open Container, Event, Dogs and selling art at beach policies:
Open Container: No person may possess any container containing any alcoholic beverage while at Higgs Beach County Park except for on-premise sale and consumption within the enclosed restaurant and restaurant patio area. The board of county commissioners may also waive the prohibition of this subsection on a per event basis upon a resolution of the board. However, any such waiver may only be granted to a nonprofit organization, must require the presence of security guards . . . , and must require liability insurance . . .
Event: Any organization requesting the use of a County facility, building, park, beach, road, bridge, airport or meeting room must complete the Request for Use of County Property form, provide insurance, determine alcohol

use, submit fees, and provide traffic control. Compliance with additional terms may be deemed necessary depending on the use.

Selling art at beach: Art may only be sold if associated with an event sponsored by a non-profit organization.

Dogs: Pets are allowed at Higgs Beach County Park in Key West on paved surfaces and on the open space lying southerly and easterly of West Martello Towers, and southerly and easterly of the fence surrounding the FAA tower parcel.

- k. County Homeless Policy – Continuum of Care Policy (Fr. Steve Braddock)
 - l. Call Boxes – Update needed from Lt. Thompson
 - m. Non-Profit status – Update needed from Richard Klitenick
 - n. First Fundraiser – consideration to Oktoberfest (first week of October)
- IV. Public Input Meeting (3/21/09) Update
- Remarks by Michael Behmke
 - Don Craig of Craig & Co. has offered to assist, at no charge, with the Master Plan
- V. Research Tools & Reports
- VI. Formation of Planning Committee
- Mission:
The Mission of the Friends of Higgs Beach is to revitalize and maintain Clarence Higgs Beach Park to ensure that it is a safe, welcoming recreational environment for all.
- Achieved through 4 actions:
- 1. Creating a master plan and directing its implementation in conjunction with Monroe County and the City of Key West.
 - 2. Spearheading all funding efforts for the revitalization of the beach and park
 - 3. Creating a revenue stream in partnership with local governments to financially support long-term upkeep, improvement and accessibility of the park, including adjacent neighborhoods and near-shore waters
 - 4. Ensuring that all park related projects and uses are consonant with the character of Key West and the surrounding neighborhood.
- Planning Committee Make-up (see attached)
The Planning Committee is a defined group of individuals representing Beach and Park constituencies.
- VII. Funding
- Efforts are being made to use TDC's DAC 1 Special Beach Fund for Higgs Beach projects (\$485,000)
- VIII. Next Meeting:
- Tuesday, April 14, 2009
3:00 pm (time not certain)
Studios of Key West (corner of White and Southard)
Leathers & Associates / Playground Designer